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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 018775-765

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Keisuke HASHIMOTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2623  
Application No.: 09/408,366 ) Examiner: Mehrdad Dastouri  
Filed: September 29, 1999 ) Confirmation No.: 3976  
For: IMAGE-PROCESSING APPARATUS )

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AMENDMENT

NOV 22 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated July 17, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please replace the paragraph in page 8, line 20 with the following:*

More specifically, in the image processor, an image-data output device 10 outputs the digital image data received from an image reader, a host computer or the like (not shown). In this example, the image data are outputted as gradation data consisting of eight bits per pixel. An edge judgment section 12 determines the difference in gradation between a target pixel and each of the adjacent pixels thereof by using the gradation data outputted from the image-data output device 10 so as to discriminate an edge direction in the main scan direction according to the combination of the differences in gradation. Then, based upon the judgement of the edge judgment section 12, a density level controller 14 generates a parameter signal for controlling the center of gravity in density in the pixel in